

account of persistent shortfall is the investment on telecommunications;

(iii) Strowger STD equipments had undergone immense wear and tear during their service period and rehabilitation had been slow;

(iv) In case of crossbar equipment poor intrinsic performance arising from the need for extensive upgradation works and design changes and high mismatch between incoming and outgoing junctions (local + trunks) have contributed to high percentage of failure of calls.

(c) (i) A detailed Plan of Action has been worked out with the objective of improving call completion rate by 5 to 10 per cent with no additional resources as input. This plan also provides for short and long term measures for unproving the performance of STD services in general;

(ii) To improve the junction availability in STD/TAX centres, a watch is kept on the outage of Junctions and remedial action taken wherever necessary to put the faulty circuits back into service speedily.

(iii) Service Quality Tests are conducted periodically to assess the quality of service being imparted for STD/TAN calls. The last such tests on New Delhi-Ahmedabad STD route were taken on 19th February, 1985.

(iv) Performance of TAXs is monitored through reports on performance parameters of common control equipments like registers and markers.

Watch is kept on the adequacy of circuits between different STD centres and TAXs through quarterly traffic return Instructions are issued for augmentation of local and long distance circuits.

(v) For improving quality of service from Delhi to cities in Gujarat, direct lines have been provided from SPC Electronic TAX at Delhi to Ahmedabad TAX.

(vi) To avoid total failure of the link between Delhi and Ahmedabad, diversity of media has been adopted and circuits between Delhi and Ahmedabad are distri-

buted over coaxial cables (Land route) and satellite channels.

(vii) Digital TAXs are planned for installation at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot and Surat stations for improvement of STD services with in and from outside Gujarat.

Shortage of cables and accessories in Gujarat Telecommunication Circle

53. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of necessary/matching cables and accessories in Gujarat Telecommunication Circle, causing problems in the development of Telecommunication in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on account of this shortage many work orders, especially allotment of new telephones, have been delayed; and

(c) if so, the remedial action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-DHA): (a) Yes Sir. There is some shortage of cable as well as switching equipment.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To meet the growing demand indigenous capacities are being expanded by setting up new factories.

Appointment of short duty Telegraphists on a regular basis

54. DR. C. SILVERA:

SHRI M. BASAVARAJU:

SHRI M. MADDANNA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Telegraphists who retired during the period from April 1982 to March, 1985 in Central Telegraph Office New Delhi, year-wise;

(b) how many retired telegraphists have been re-employed with reasons therefor during the above period, year-wise;

(c) what is the number of Short Duty Telegraphists whose antecedents have been verified and who have been absorbed against the vacancies created by retirement in this cadre; and how many Telegraphists have so far not been regularised against the existing vacancies;

(d) what is the number of vacancies of Telegraphists lying vacant as on the 31st March, 1985; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or proposed to take to appoint the trained Short Duty Telegraphists on a regular basis against vacancies caused by retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-DHA): (a) and (b) Nil.

(c) Antecedents of 170 Short-duty Telegraphists of 'Reserved Trained Pool' have been verified and out of these 56 have been absorbed against the vacancies caused due to promotion to higher grade new posts etc.

(d) 50 vacancies;

(e) They will be absorbed against existing vacancies as and when the ban is lifted.

Telephone link between Aizwal and Lunglei

55. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no telephonic link between Aizwal and Lunglei with Saika which is the headquarters of Chhimulpui district in Mizoram;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the district headquarters of Mizoram is likely to be linked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIR-DHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terrain is difficult for construction and operation of openwire lines and systems, necessitating provision of Radio media. Accordingly, two UHF jinks have been planned now connecting Aizwal to Lunglei and Lunglei to Saiha.

(c) These schemes are under execution and are expected to be completed during the 7th Plan period.

Wagon Industry

56. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wagon building industry in the country is facing a serious crisis and that lakhs of employees in the industry are likely to lose their jobs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) Keeping in view operational priorities, traffic requirements and plan allocations of the Railways, it has been found possible by them to allocate Rs. 145 crores only for procurement of just about 5000 wagons in terms of 4-wheelers during 1985-86. This amounts to a sharp reduction in the offtake of wagons. Outlay on Railways' Seventh Plan has yet to be finalised. Assessment of employees in the wagon industry becoming surplus consequent upon reduction in orders, can be made